Upgradation of East Coast Road

1567. DR. K. MALAISAMY; Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Chennai-Cuddalore highway in view of the process of improving the East Coast Road from Kolkata to Kanyakumari and declaring it as a National Highway;

(b) what is the stage of declaring the stretch from Chennai to Athiramapattiriam as National Highway particularly when the road is already improved; and

(c) by when the stretch between Nagapattinam to Tuticorin would also be declared as National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSP0R7 AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The road from Chennai to Pondicherry is a State road and maintained by Tamil Nadu Road Development Corporation on Build Operate and Transfer basis. The stretch from Pondicherry to Cuddaiore is a part of National Highway No. 45A.

(b) and (c) The Pondicherry-Nagapattinam portion of the Chennai-Nagapattinam-Athiramapattinam-Tuticorin road is a part of National Highway No. 45A and it is maintained from National Highway funds. In February, 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 Kms. of State roads as National Highways including 425 kms. in Tamil Nadu. It is premature to indicate any time-frame for declaration of the balance portion of Chennai-Tuticorin road as a National Highway.

Road proposals from Tripura

1568. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR; Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSF'ORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleaseu to state:

(a) the status of the proposals put forward by the State Government of Tripura regarding new National Highways and Agartala By-pass on National Highway-44;

(b) whether substantial progress has been made uptil now;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, programme proposed to be followed soon?